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...BUT SINCE YOU'RE RETIRING NEXT WEEK AFTER FOUR DECADES IN THE NAVY, THE BRASS COULDN'T RESIST YOUR REQUEST FOR A TOUR.
BUT IMAGINE WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF SOME LUNATIC GOT ON BOARD AND TOOK CONTROL--!
TELL YOU WHAT, LIEUTENANT...
K-KLIK
...LET'S FIND OUT!

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LOVE BREAKS
I'M JUST ONE MAN.
CAN'T SHE UNDERSTAND THAT?
DAVID MICHELINIE
WRITER
KIERON & DWYER DENIS RODIER
ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY
LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE
COLORIST
DIGITAL CHAMELEON
COLOR SEPARATIONS
MIKE McAVENNIE
ASSISTANT EDITOR
KC CARLSON
EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

NO, LET'S BE FAIR.
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TO UNDERSTAND HER.
LOIS SEEMS INCREASINGLY UNHAPPY THAT I DON'T SPEND MORE TIME WITH HER...
...THAT MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS SUPERMAN TAKE ME AWAY TOO MUCH.
AND SHE'S GOT A POINT.
"I DIDARM-WRESTLE CAPTAIN MARVEL FOR HOURS--*
"--BEFORE AN EMERGENCY MADE US CALL IT OFF SO WE COULD GET PEOPLE TO SAFETY."
*IN MAN OF TOMORROW #4.
BUT, EVEN WORSE--
--LOIS SEEMS JEALOUS OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH LORI LEMARIS.
AND THAT'S JUST SILLY.
BUY MORE KERN'S
SURE, LORI AND I WERE CLOSE ONCE, BUT NOW I'M ENGAGED TO LOIS.
LORI AND I ARE JUST...
...FRIENDS.
4

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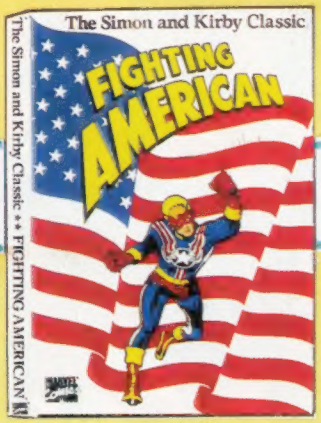

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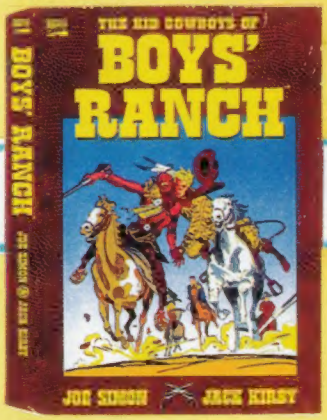

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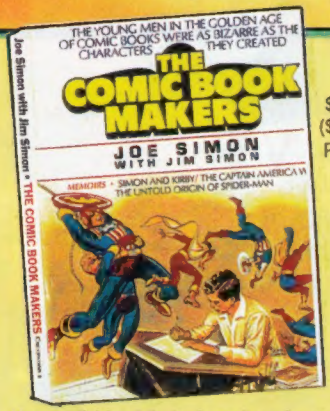
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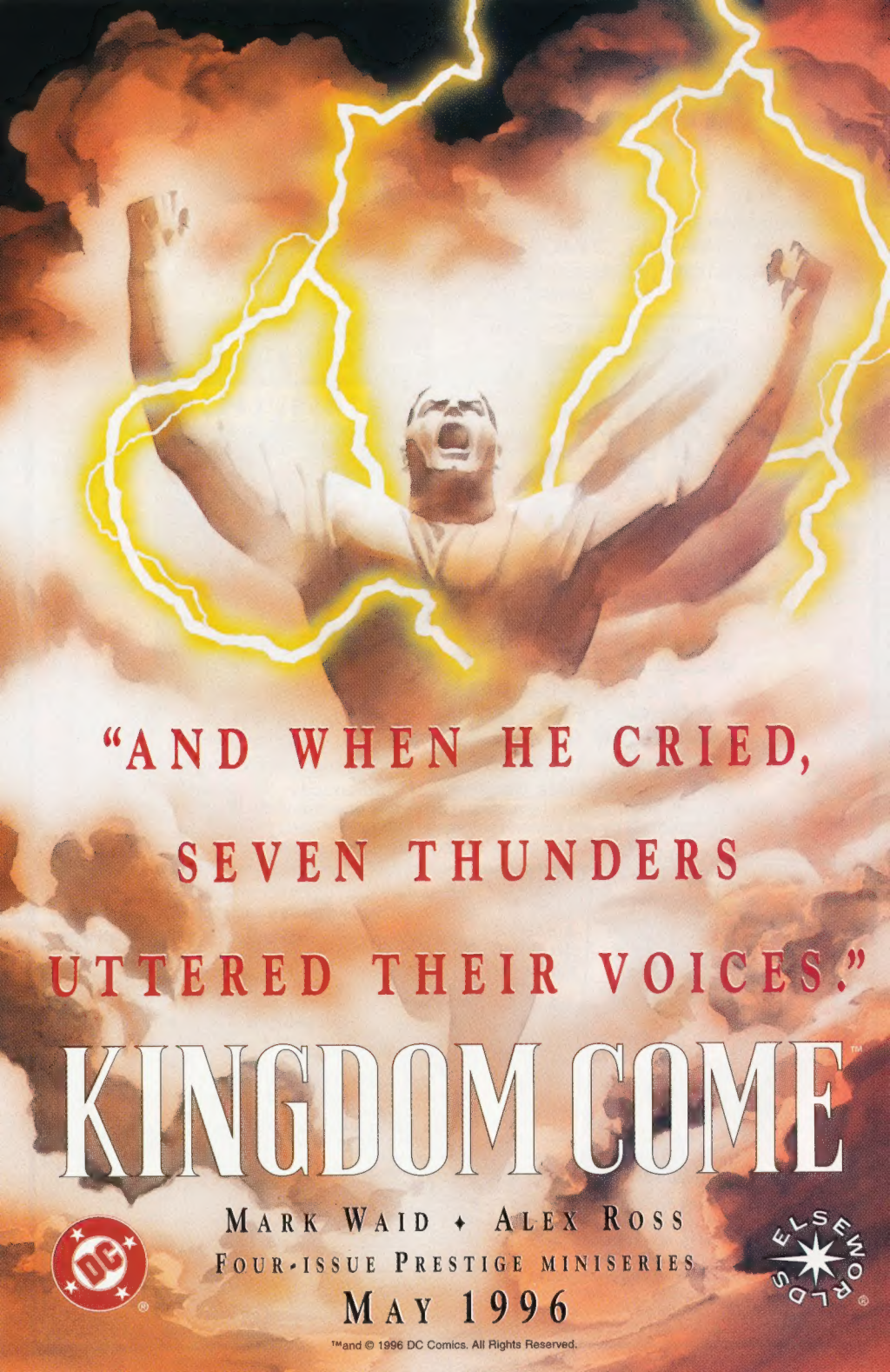

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I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, LORI!
AND I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU ENJOY THESE LITTLE DIPS! BUT RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO GET READY FOR MY DATE WITH CLARK!
SO WOULD YOU MIND GETTING YOUR TAIL OUT OF THERE?
I'M NOT THE ENEMY, LOIS. DEEP INSIDE, YOU KNOW THAT.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT I FEEL!
I LIVED WITH HUMANS WHEN I WAS IN COLLEGE.
I LEARNED HOW NEC-ESSARY... AND FRAGILE... RELATIONSHIPS ARE.
TELL CLARK HOW YOU FEEL, LOIS. KEEPING ANGER INSIDE JUST MAKES IT GROW. YOUR ONLY CHANCE--AND HIS--

--IS TO GET THINGS OUT IN THE OPEN!
MAN, IT FEELS GREAT TO BE OUT IN THE OPEN AIR AGAIN.
DAILY PLANET
I DIDN'T PLAN ON STAYING SO LATE--
--BUT PERRY ASKED ME TO OVERSEE THE REBLOCKING OF THAT AD SECTION. HE USUALLY HANDLES THAT SORT OF THING HIMSELF--
--BUT HE TOOK OFF EARLY TODAY. SAID HE WAS TIRED. Hmm, I HOPE OUR STALWART MANAGING EDITOR ISN'T PUSHING HIMSELF TOO HARD.
HEY! RON TROUPE!
huh?
WELL, HEY, LUCY LANE!
GLAD I CAUGHT YOU BEFORE YOU WENT HOME.
WANT TO GO TO A CONCERT? I WON PEARL JAM TICKETS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY LUCK-- I'VE NEVER WON ANYTHING BEFORE! HECK, I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER ENTERING THE CONTEST!
COOL. BUT, UM, WHY AREN'T YOU GOING WITH JIMMY?
OH. WELL, HE'S, UM, BEEN REAL BUSY OVER AT WGBS, CLIMBING THE CORPORATE LADDER AND STUFF. BESIDES...
...HE'S KINDA SEEING SOME "DANA" PERSON.
WHICH IS GOOD LUCK FOR US, RIGHT? IF WE GO EARLY ENOUGH--
--MAYBE WE CAN GET IN FOR THE SOUND CHECK!
Y'KNOW, I INTERVIEWED EDDIE VEDDER WHEN THE GROUP BROKE FROM TICKETRON. IF HE STILL REMEMBERS ME--
--I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO GET US BACKSTAGE.
;sigh; MY HERO...!

I'VE BEEN THINKING, CLARK...
WHOOOOP--!
...WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, I TEND TO FORGET I HAD A LIFE BEFORE WE MET.
A GOOD LIFE.
I WAS GOING PLACES, LEARNING THINGS, GROWING AS A PERSON.
I WAS HAPPY.
OF COURSE ;KUF; THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT ;K-KAF;--

FATAL FIGHT!
THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE VS.
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
PEYER, McCRAW, MODLER & BOYD
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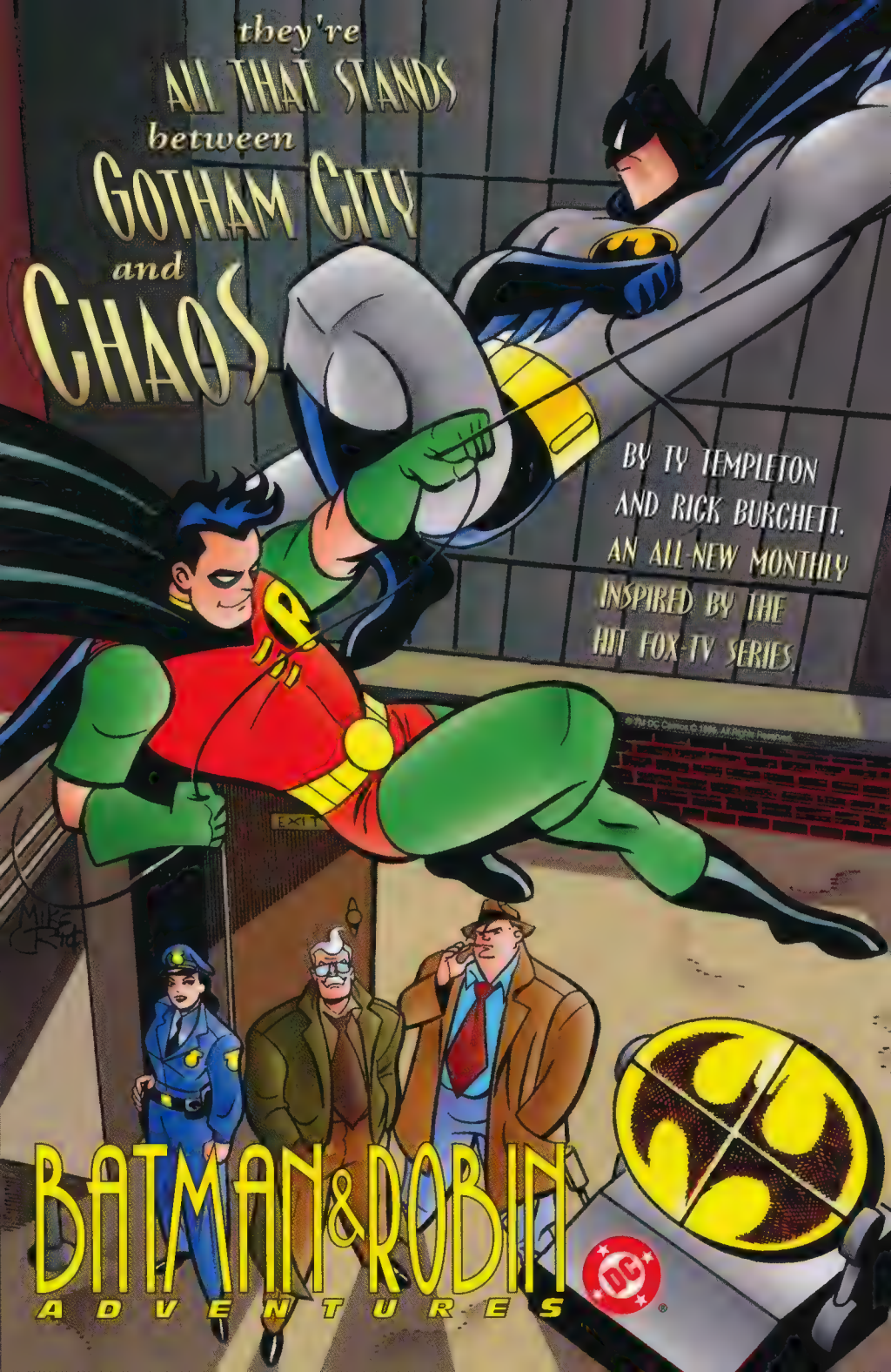
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--THAT BEING WITH YOU HAS MADE ME HAPPIER THAN I EVER THOUGHT I COULD BE.
HEY--!
BUT IT'S ONLY SNATCHES OF HAPPINESS, CLARK.
TEASES OF WHAT MIGHT BE.
IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME WE REALLY START TO GET CLOSE--
--YOU HAVE TO GO OFF AND DEAL WITH... WELL, "BUSINESS."
BUT--
THIS RING IS US, CLARK.
DOESN'T IT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

LOIS, IT MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME!
BUT YOU KNEW THE RESPONSIBILITY I HAVE TO DEAL WITH.
WHY HAS IT BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT NOW?
A FEW DAYS AGO, YOU CHOSE TO LET ME "DIE."*
YOU THOUGHT I WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE IF SURVIVING DESTROYED YOU.
AND I GUESS, FOR THE MOST PART, THAT'S TRUE. BUT...
* IN ACTION #719.
...IT'S MADE ME THINK, MADE ME REALIZE I HAVE COMPETITION.
SOMEONE ELSE IS TAKING YOU AWAY FROM ME.
I SEE.
MAYBE WE'D BETTER FINISH THIS AT MY PLACE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD.

BAKERLINE.
KRRRRENCH!
HOLY CRUD! TH-THE X-17'S BREAKIN' LOOSE!
IT'S HEADIN' OUT TO SEA!
BUT HOW? THE ONLY PERSONNEL ON BOARD ARE LIEUTENANT DUFF AND--
THE ADMIRAL! :k-koff!: H-HE'S STEALING THE X-17!
OH, MAN! LIKE THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN ON SOMEONE ELSE'S SHIFT?
ADMIRAL KOONTZ! THIS IS THE SHORE PATROL!
RETURN TO PORT IMMEDIATELY!
SP

NOT A CHANCE!
I GAVE MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE TO THE MILITARY--ONLY TO HAVE BUDGET CUTS FORCE ME OUT TO PASTURE!
WOULD YOU WANT TO LIVE ON RETIREMENT PAY THESE DAYS?
I WOULDN'T. AND I WON'T HAVE TO--
--ONCE I'VE SOLD THIS SHIP TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER!
BUT, SIR--! THINK OF YOUR COUNTRY!
I SERVED MY COUNTRY FOR FORTY YEARS, SON.
NOW I'M GOING TO LET MY COUNTRY SERVE ME!

NOW THAT WE HAVE MORE PRIVACY, LOIS, I'VE GOT TO SAY--
--YOU'RE WAY OUT OF LINE. IF YOU THINK LORI'S TRYING TO STEAL MY HEART, YOU COULDN'T BE MORE OFF BASE!
CLARK, LORI ISN'T THE "OTHER WOMAN."
YOU ARE!
WHAT--?!
SUPERMAN'S THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS TAKING "CLARK" AWAY FROM ME!
BUT THAT'S CRAZY! I'M SUPERMAN--AND CLARK!
YOU CAN'T KEEP ME FROM BEING WHAT I AM!
I KNOW THAT.
AND I'M JUST BEGINNING TO REALIZE I NEVER WILL.

I'VE PUT YOU BEFORE MY JOB, MY FRIENDS, MY FAMILY. THAT'S WHAT A TRUE RELATIONSHIP IS-- TWO PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH EACH OTHER TOTALLY--
SIRENS...?
--HOLDING NOTHING BACK, FOR BETTER OR WORSE. BUT NO MATTER HOW CLOSE WE GET--
--THERE'S STILL A PART OF YOU THAT'S ALWAYS SOMEWHERE ELSE.
CLARK?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
Hmm? OH! OF COURSE, LOIS!
MORE COMMOTION!
BETTER USE X-RAY VISION TO--
--GOOD LORD! HELICOPTER GUNBOATS, COAST GUARD VESSELS, CONVERGING ON THE BAKER-LINE DOCKS! LOOKS LIKE A WAR'S ABOUT TO BREAK OUT!
I'VE GOT TO--
NO!

WE NEED TO FINISH THIS! IT'S OUR FUTURE, CLARK! THIS SECOND! NOW!
IT COULD WELL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT IN OUR LIVES TOGETHER, EVER!
PLEASE--!
;sigh;
NO. I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO STAND THERE AND LET PEOPLE DIE.
NOT EVEN FOR ME.
GO.

SHE'LL UNDERSTAND. SHE HAS TO!
WE'LL TALK AS LONG AS SHE WANTS--
--JUST AS SOON AS I GET BACK.
I FIGURED HE'D SHOW UP. BUT HOW CAN EVEN SUPERMAN COUNTER A DEFENSE LAUNCHED--
"--AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT?"
SH-SH-SHOOF
GUESS THAT PROVES WHO THE ENEMY IS.
VWHM!
CHOOK!
MISSILES-- HEADING IN ALL DIRECTIONS--

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Whitty
--WHILE A LITTLE SUPER-SPEED--
--SHOULD HELP THESE--
"--HANDLE THOSE."
BOOM!
BLAM!

PA-BWAMM!
AND THAT TAKES CARE OF THE LAST TWO.
BETTER DROP THIS VESSEL OFF AT THE SHIPYARD...
...THEN GET BACK TO LOIS AND--
"--TORPEDOES?"
SHRANG!
WHRRRRR
HEADING FOR THOSE WATERFRONT CONDOS!

PLOOSH!
BLAST...!
ROCKET MOTORS ARE POWERFUL, BUT MAYBE I CAN TURN THAT POWER AGAINST THEM.
USE BRUTE STRENGTH TO REDIRECT THEIR ATTACK PATH--
--SO THEY'LL BURY THEMSELVES IN THE RIVERBED, WHERE THEY CAN EXPLODE--
"--HARMLESSLY."
WHUMP!

OKAY, THAT DOES IT.
NO MORE FOOLING AROUND!
CHRANGK!
NO MORE--
TSSSSSS
--DELAYS!
P-PLEASE!
DON'T HURT ME!
DON'T WORRY. I'M ONLY TURNING YOU OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES.
THOUGH CONSIDERING WHAT YOU INTER-RUPTED...!
MISTER, BE GRATEFUL I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.

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KANSAS.
LOOKS LIKE PETE AND LANA HAVE BEEN WATCHING OVER THINGS JUST FINE, JONATHAN.
I HAVE TO AGREE, MARTHA. PRELIMINARY CONSTRUCTION LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE IT DID ON THOSE PLANS THE KIDS FAXED US ON THE ROAD.
BUT IT'S TIME FOR US TO OVERSEE THE REST?
UH-HUH. WE WENT THROUGH A LOT DURING OUR TRAVELS, AFTER THE OLD HOMESTEAD WAS RAZED.
"WE SAW AND DID A BUNCH OF EXCITIN' THINGS.
"BUT...

"... IT WAS ALL JUST RUNNIN' AWAY, REALLY.
"IT HURT TO SEE OUR WORLD DESTROYED, SO WE TRIED TO PRETEND IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.
"IT'S TIME TO PUT THE PAIN BEHIND US--
"BUT THIS FARM, THIS SOIL, THAT'S WHAT'S REAL. WE CAN'T DENY WHAT WE ARE, MARTHA, NOT AT THE CORE.
"IT'S TIME WE ACCEPTED WHAT'S TRUE, NO MATTER HOW TOUGH IT IS.
"--AND GET ON WITH OUR LIVES...!"

RE:ACTION

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Boy, you people sure are a suspicious, untrusting lot! Here we had the Alpha Centurion volunteering life and limb to assemble a team to rescue Superman, and what do you do? Just about all of you flat-out accuse the poor guy of bein' the Cyborg! For shame!

*****

Dear Super-People:
Re: ACTION COMICS #716
Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg. *Oooooohhhhh*...what a shocker.

Shawn Harris
Fullerton, CA

Here's an even bigger shocker, Shawn—you're ***wrong****. Thanks, anyway!*

*****

Dear Re:Action People:
"The Trial of Superman" is as big as the O.J. Simpson trial. Kal-El runs from the Tribunal, a criminal just like the ones he puts away. ACTION COMICS #716 was a great issue. The fugitives go to Haven, Haven shifts out of reality to escape their enemies—that's one great idea.

On page 10, the Alpha Centurion says, "...Isn't the end of the world! Though it may seem the end of *your* world...!", and Superboy says he remembers someone saying that before. I know who—it's the Cyborg! He said it during "Reign of the Supermen," when the Cyborg showed his bad, evil side in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #503.

I think you guys should make Superman toys, including all the people from the "Reign" story arc, and especially Doomsday. I can't wait until SUPERMAN/TOYMAN and SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL GALLERY come out. Keep up the good work.

Eugene Abano
San Diego, CA

Thanks, Eugene. Hopefully, you now know that the Centurion ***isn't*** *the Cyborg, and that Kenner has brought out some new Superman action figures, including three figures straight from the "Reign of the Supermen"! What, you're still readin' this? Get goin'!*

*****

Hey, Super-People:
I think I've got this figured out—Alpha Centurion is the Cyborg. I thought the Centurion was pretty cool when he first showed up, but since then, he's tried to steal both Superman's girl friend and popularity. He then called the Tribunal to get Superman, but when he saw his plans weren't working, he decided to get Superman back. It all makes sense, right?

Anyway, this was a pretty good issue. I think the best part is that I don't have to see Smitty again. He was annoying and deserves to be

ACTION COMICS #716

stuck in Haven with the inferior people. I do like Leeya and Mope, though. I'd like for them to hang around a while, and maybe become part of the supporting cast when the trial is over. The only other problem with this issue was that Lois wasn't in it. Thanks for your time.

Doud Ohmer
Covington, KY

P.S. Any plans for a Supergirl ongoing, or even another miniseries?

Hang in there, Doud. We have plans for Supergirl; ***big*** *plans (insert ominous laugh here). While Leeya and Smitty are both available for return appearances (though don't expect 'em any time soon), the same, unfortunately, cannot be said for poor Mope. His life went another course in SUPERMAN #108 (straight to the remains of Krypton, in fact!).*

*****

Dear ACTION COMICS (re: ACTION #716):
Can you say "Return of the Cyborg!"? I was always a little suspicious of the Alpha Centurion and his motives, and a part of me always believed that he wasn't what he seemed. After reading ACTION #716, I knew that the Centurion was really the Cyborg in disguise. I can't wait to see what's going to happen in future Superman titles.

"The Trial of Superman" is the best storyline I've read since "The Death of Superman." Please keep up the tremendous work on this title.

Ed Dillon
Oakville, Ontario
Canada

*****

Dear Super-Team:
Did you really think you could trick me? I know the truth—the Alpha Centurion isn't really the Alpha Centurion. He's the Cyborg! The Centurion said to Superboy, "Though it may seem the end of *your* world"; the Cyborg told him the very same thing in ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #503.

Anyway, ACTION #716 was great! "The Trial of Superman" is much better than the O.J. trial. Is Jimmy ever going back to the *Daily Planet*? I liked him better that way.

By the way, could you also please tell me what a Baldy is? I have no idea.

Randy Lotouryez
Warren, NJ

Sure, Randy. A Baldy's a prize we offer every month in the Superman lettercolumns to the letter that appeals to us most. There's no rhyme, reason, thought pattern or special requirement to receive one, though we never give 'em out to people who ask for one! However, since you only asked what a Baldy ***was****, we've decided to let you see for yourself this month! Enjoy!*

Now, our next letter's a perfect example of how ***not*** *to earn a Baldy...*

Hey, Guys:

I just picked up ACTION COMICS #716, and while I was flipping through the issue it occurred to me—I know who the Alpha Centurion really is. But let's review the facts before I tell you.

Fact: Superman was kidnapped, put on trial and found guilty.

Fact: The Alpha Centurion saw the kidnapping and formed a team to rescue Superman.

Fact: The super-heroes chosen for the rescue team all had something to do with stopping the Cyborg during the Coast City situation.

So, the real identity of the Alpha Centurion is Hank Henshaw, a.k.a. the *Cyborg!* Motive: *Revenge!* First, he kills Superman, Steel, Supergirl, the Eradicator and Superboy. Then he travels back to Earth and tells everyone the group was killed. He gets monthly comics with his name on them, book deals, cameos, movie appearances and a weekly TV show called *Lois and Alpha Centurion.* He has to be stopped!

Wait...What am I worried about? Superman will win. He'll figure this whole mess out; at least, I *hope* so.

Now for my payment for my investigation into this matter: I demand a Baldy. I also want a team-up between Superman and the Justice League of America. You'll get all the benefits of a Superman-Flash team-up, as well as having Hawkman and Wonder Woman.

Stevehen Warren
Poughkeepsie, NY

Sigh* See what we mean, Randy? Sorry, Stevehen—better hit those criminology books again! And, for the record, the TV show would be called* ***Lois and Marcus: The New Adventures of the Alpha Centurion.* *Catchy, ain't it?*

As for Superman and the original JLA, we hope you'll check out our ELSEWORLDS project LEAGUE OF JUSTICE, on sale now! And if you think we don't plan on puttin' 'em together in the regular DC continuity, think again, as the Man of Steel will fight side by side once more with the World's Greatest Heroes later this year!

*****

Dear Editors:

ACTION COMICS #716 was yet another chapter in the "Trial of Superman" storyline which completely surprised me; it took off in a direction altogether different than I had initially expected. I was geared up for about anything, from Superman on the run to Superman launching a full-scale attack on the Tribunal, but definitely not this!

Being the kind of comic-book reader who likes to be surprised once in a while by a totally unexpected twist in a storyline, I have therefore truly enjoyed this issue's story ("Fugitive Justice"), produced by the wonderful team of Michelinie, Dwyer and Rodier. The strong focus on Superman and his three fellow prisoners—Mope, Leeya and Smitty—was exactly the kind of follow-up to the events occurring last issue that kept my undivided interest in its gentle group. Seeing these four characters interact some more really made for some highly enjoyable reading, especially Superman's strong feelings about himself being regarded as a criminal, which brought up some intriguing points.

Having him realize that the term "criminal" is quite variable depending on what world you're on or what society you're in was undoubtedly the issue's high note. Justice is a term open to interpretation, and that's an important lesson, even for Superman.

As for the continuation of the storyline, I'm pleased to see at least Smitty has dropped out of the quartet of Tribunal fugitives. In my eyes, he was the one who could be trusted least; above that, his character was the only one that was the least appealing. With him gone, I can only hope the interaction between Superman, Mope and Leeya will intensify, circumstances forcing them to work together despite their differences, thus making for some fascinating reading in the process.

Anyhow, as I've mentioned, ACTION COMICS #716 was a wonderful issue, complete with its fair share of surprises to keep the main storyline fresh and exciting. Rest assured, then, that I'll be right back here in five weeks for more Michelinie/Dwyer/Rodier action!

Olav Beemer
Zeist, The Netherlands

Thanks, Olav, for not only making some interesting observations, but also for being the only fella in this column who didn't accuse the poor Alpha Centurion of criminal action! Good for you!

Of course, there are still some of you out there who simply insist otherwise...

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Dear Super-Team:

Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg! Alpha Centurion is really the Cyborg!

Also, I noticed that Superboy and Supergirl were playing "Magic: The Gathering," a game I play myself. *Cool!*

Jim Kulig
Grimsby, Ontario
Canada

Thanks, Jim, even if you ***did*** *"gather" the wrong facts about the Alpha Centurion! Besides, we thought "Magic" required at least two players, so how do you play it alone...?*

—Mike McAvennie
And Justice for Alph!

NEXT WEEK: Well, after reading this issue of ACTION, you'll just have to check out MAN OF STEEL #55! Clark tries to patch things up with Lois, who's too busy uncovering a union racket which involves another old flame of hers. All this, and someone dies! Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove and Dennis Janke put out this killer issue in seven days!

IN TWO WEEKS: What, you don't expect the pace to pick up even more in SUPERMAN #111, do you? Too bad! Superman's depressed! Lois is upset! Vinnie Edge is fired from WGBS, and, as luck would have it in Metropolis these days, Cat Grant's named as his replacement! Dan Jurgens, Ron Frenz and Joe Rubinstein'll give all of you something to talk about around the water cooler in fourteen days!

IN THREE WEEKS: In ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #534, DMN-addicted monsters run rampant in Metropolis, thanks to Lord Satanus! Also, the city's caught up in lottery fever—everyone, that is, except Lois and Clark, whose luck keeps going from bad to worse. Stuart Immonen and Jose Marzan, Jr. continue to bring you our favorite *ex*-couple's misfortunes in twenty-one days!

NEXT MONTH: It's time for the lucky lottery number to be drawn in ACTION COMICS #721, and the winner is...Well, does it really matter *who* wins? In some form or another, aren't we all lucky winners? Especially when we have the likes of David Michelinie, Kieron Dwyer and Denis Rodier bringing us this story in twenty-eight days! Thought you'd see it our way!

The cover you thought you'd never see pencilled by Kieron Dwyer! The image you hoped would never be embellished by Denis Rodier! The piece of art you prayed would never be colored by Color Works! Well, here it is! Gotta go...have a prior engagement to attend...

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